

## ABSTRACT

5 A data distribution system includes a plurality of data sources each  
capable of transmitting a data item, and a data vending machine capable of  
receiving the data item from the plurality of data sources and selling the  
received data item to a user. The data vending machine includes a data  
selecting apparatus operated by a user to select a desired data item, a data  
source selecting apparatus connected to the data selecting apparatus for  
selecting, among the plurality of data sources, one that holds the data item  
10 selected by the data selecting apparatus, in accordance with a specific  
standard, a data receiving apparatus connected to the data source selecting  
apparatus for receiving selected data item from the data source selected by  
the data source selecting apparatus, and a data updating apparatus to  
which an external storage device is detachably mounted, for writing the  
15 data item received by the data receiving apparatus to the external storage  
device.